(b) and (c) The Bullet Proof Jackets developed by DRDO met the Qualitative Requirements (QRs) given by the Users. These are available in different configurations and provide different levels of protection. These have been designed to ensure proper fitting to enable the wearer to perform his operational tasks without any hindrance as per QRs given.

Recruitment of women officers in IAF

903. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to recruit more women officers and pilots; and

(b) the allocation made to them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Concerted efforts have been undertaken by the Indian Air Force to carry out a proactive publicity campaign in order to reach the target group across the country, which includes potential women candidates and pilots. Apart from the Short Service Commission Scheme, the Government has also recently decided to offer Permanent Commission to eligible and suitable women officers in Judge Advocate General (JAG) and Army Education Corps (AEC) in the Army and their corresponding Branch/Cadre in Navy and Air Force, Accounts branch of the IAF and Naval Constructor of the Navy.

As per the Government sanction for induction of women officers under the Short Service Commission Scheme, there is a ceiling of 10% on intake in technical branch and 15% in non-technical branch. In the flying branch there is a combined ceiling of 20% for both Men and Women officers.

Indigenous production in defence sector

904. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the indigenous production during the last four years; and

(b) the amount spent on such production and contracts given to foreign companies and domestic companies during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Generating electricity from sea-water

†905. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Institute of Ocean Technology is working in the direction of generating electricity from sea water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.